

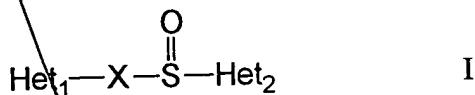
Applicants petition for a three month extension of time. Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 23-1703 in the amount of Three Hundred and Ninety Dollars (\$390.00) to cover the extension fee as required by 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(a)(2) and 1.136(a).

Amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 15, 16, 20, 21 and 23-25.

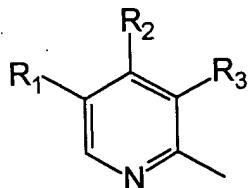
Substitute amended claims 1-7, 10, 11, 18 and 19 for the respective pending claims as follows:

- D* ✓ 1. (Thrice amended) A method of treatment for improving the inhibition of gastric acid secretion comprising the oral administration of a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile  $H^+$ ,  $K^+$ -ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the  $H^+$ ,  $K^+$ -ATPase inhibitor, and the  $H^+$ ,  $K^+$ -ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I

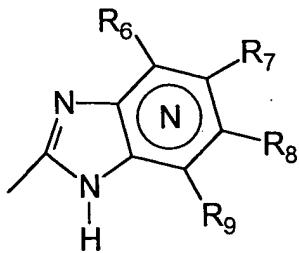


wherein

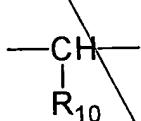
$\text{Het}_1$  is



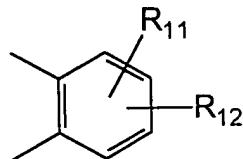
Het<sub>2</sub> is



X =



or



wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

$R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

$R_6$ - $R_9$  are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxy carbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups  $R_6$ - $R_9$  form ring structures which may be further substituted;

$R_{10}$  is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with  $R_3$ ; and

$R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl

*Don't count*

2. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1 or 26, wherein the  $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ -ATPase inhibitor is a compound selected from the group consisting of omeprazole, an alkaline salt of omeprazole, the (-)-enantiomer of omeprazole and an alkaline salt of the (-)-enantiomer of omeprazole.

3. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1 or 26, wherein the extended blood plasma profile is obtained by two or more consecutive oral administrations of a unit dose of the  $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ -ATPase inhibitor with 0.5 - 4 hours intervals.

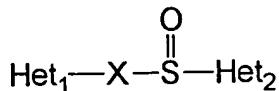
*CRF*  
*D*

4. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1 or 26, wherein the extended blood plasma profile is obtained by oral administration of the pharmaceutical formulation which releases the  $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ -ATPase inhibitor for absorption in two or more discrete pulses separated in time by 0.5 - 4 hours.

5. (Thrice amended) The method according to claim 1 or 26, wherein the extended blood plasma profile is obtained by oral administration of the pharmaceutical formulation which releases the  $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ -ATPase inhibitor for absorption with an almost constant rate during an extended time period.

6. (Thrice amended) The method according to any of claims 1-5 or 26, wherein the extended blood plasma profile is maintained for 2 - 12 hours.

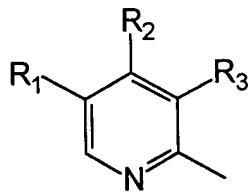
7. (Thrice amended) An oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising an acid labile  $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ -ATPase inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the formulation induces an extended blood plasma profile of the  $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ -ATPase inhibitor, and the  $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ -ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



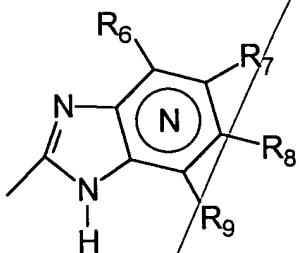
I

wherein

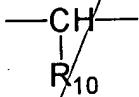
Het<sub>1</sub> is



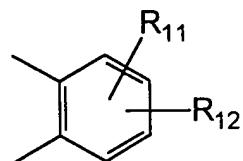
*or*  
D<sub>1</sub>  
Het<sub>2</sub> is



X =



or



wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

*D1*

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

*D2*

R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> form ring structures which may be further substituted;

R<sub>10</sub> is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R<sub>3</sub>; and

R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl.

*D2*

10. (Thrice amended) The oral pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 7, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation releases the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor for absorption with an almost constant rate during an extended time period.

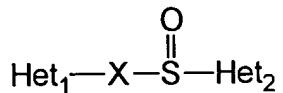
*D3*

11. (Thrice amended) The oral pharmaceutical formulation according to any of claims 7-10, wherein the extended blood plasma profile is maintained for 2 -12 hours.

*D2*

*D3*

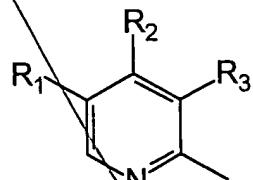
18. (Twice amended) A method of treatment for improving the inhibition of gastric acid secretion comprising the oral administration of a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor, and the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



I

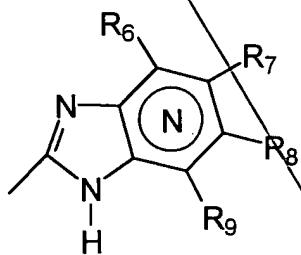
wherein

Het<sub>1</sub> is

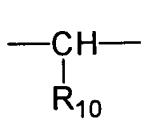


E7

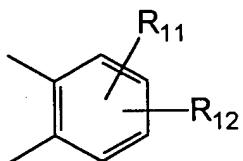
Het<sub>2</sub> is



X =



or



wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

*R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;*

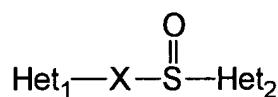
*R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxy carbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> form ring structures which may be further substituted;*

*R<sub>10</sub> is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R<sub>3</sub>; and*

*R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl*

*with the proviso that the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor is not pantoprazole.*

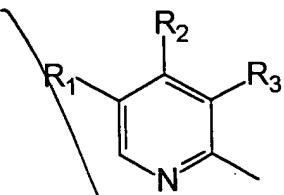
19. (Twice amended) An oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising an acid labile H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the formulation induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor, and the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



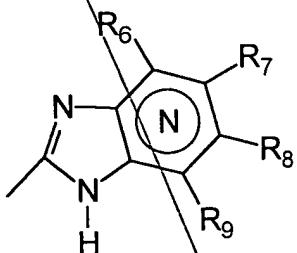
I

wherein

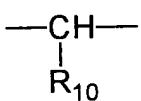
Het<sub>1</sub> is



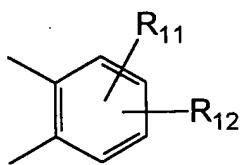
Het<sub>2</sub> is



*cm<sup>24</sup>*  
D3  
X =



or



wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxy carbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> form ring structures which may be further substituted;

*E2*  
*CNP*  
*D*

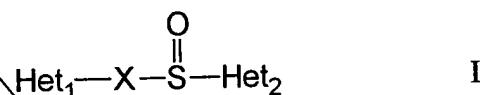
R<sub>10</sub> is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R<sub>3</sub>; and

R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl,  
with the proviso that the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor is not pantoprazole.

Add new claims 26 and 27:

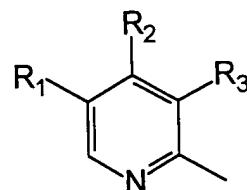
*Dw 3*  
*D4*

26. (New) A method for improving the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders associated with excess acid secretion comprising the oral administration of a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor, and the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I

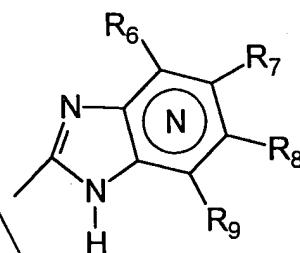


wherein

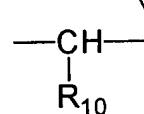
Het<sub>1</sub> is



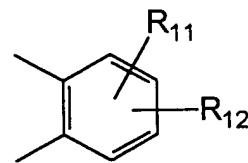
Het<sub>2</sub> is



X =



or



wherein

*CN<sup>+</sup>*  
*D<sub>4</sub>*

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazoly, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> form ring structures which may be further substituted;

R<sub>10</sub> is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R<sub>3</sub>; and

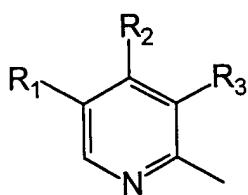
*R<sub>11</sub>* and *R<sub>12</sub>* are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl.

27. (New) A method for improving the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders associated with excess acid secretion comprising the oral administration of a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor, and the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I

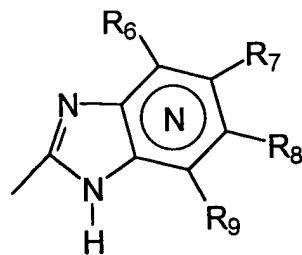


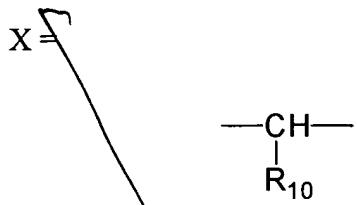
wherein

*G*  
 Het<sub>1</sub> is

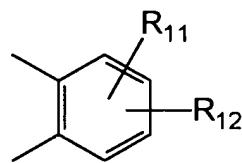


Het<sub>2</sub> is





or



wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

*Cn† D4*  
R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxy-carbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>9</sub> form ring structures which may be further substituted;

*E3 N1 C1*  
R<sub>10</sub> is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R<sub>3</sub>; and

*E3 N1 C1*  
R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl,

with the proviso that the H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor is not pantoprazole.